

Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP)

Project Proposal

Project Title:

Breton Island Barrier Island Restoration

Entity/Individual Nominating Project:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex

Contact Information:

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Total CIAP Funds Requested:

\$125 million

Infrastructure Funds Proposed:

No infrastructure funds proposed.

Description and Location of Project:

Project is located on Breton National Wildlife Refuge, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, Breton Sound approximately 8 miles north-east of the terminus of Baptiste Collette Pass. Project is proposed to restore barrier island habitat and structure for storm protection and to provide habitat for fish and wildlife resources. Sediment will be dredged from Breton Sound/Gulf of Mexico and placed on the submerged shoal/platform that remains where the island previously existed. Project would reconnect north Breton and west point islands. Sediment will be pumped to a height of 5+ MLG to raise it above normal tidal range. Following consolidation of dredged material, sand fencing will be constructed and vegetation planted to aid in dune formation. Approximately 2,100-2,400 acres of barrier island habitat will be created in an area approximately 6 miles in length by ½ mile in width. Approximately 3,000 acres of tidally influenced emergent marsh and barrier island habitats are expected to benefit from this project both directly and indirectly. The anticipated loss rate reduction throughout the area of direct benefits over the project life is 25% with future maintenance.

Project Type:

Conservation, restoration, and protection of coastal area, including wetland.

Project Justification:

Breton Island was a dynamic barrier island approximately 5-7 miles in length and up to ½ mile in width with a protected anchorage. Beginning in the mid 1990's a succession of intense tropical storms and hurricanes, culminating with the passage of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 have reduced it to less than 10% of its former size. West Point, the southwest

terminus of Breton Island, supported a nesting colony of over 5,000 pair of endangered Brown Pelicans along with numerous other colonial nesting seabirds. Loss of habitat and the reduction in elevation of what remains of the island make future nesting at this site questionable. It is also probable that without action, this barrier island will be lost entirely.

The goal of this project is to re-create a barrier island and provide habitat for colonial seabirds, including the endangered brown pelican. It will maintain the barrier island functions currently being lost.

Project supports Coast 2050 Strategy 22 – Restore/Maintain Barrier Islands

Project Cost Share:

No cost share is anticipated at the current time.